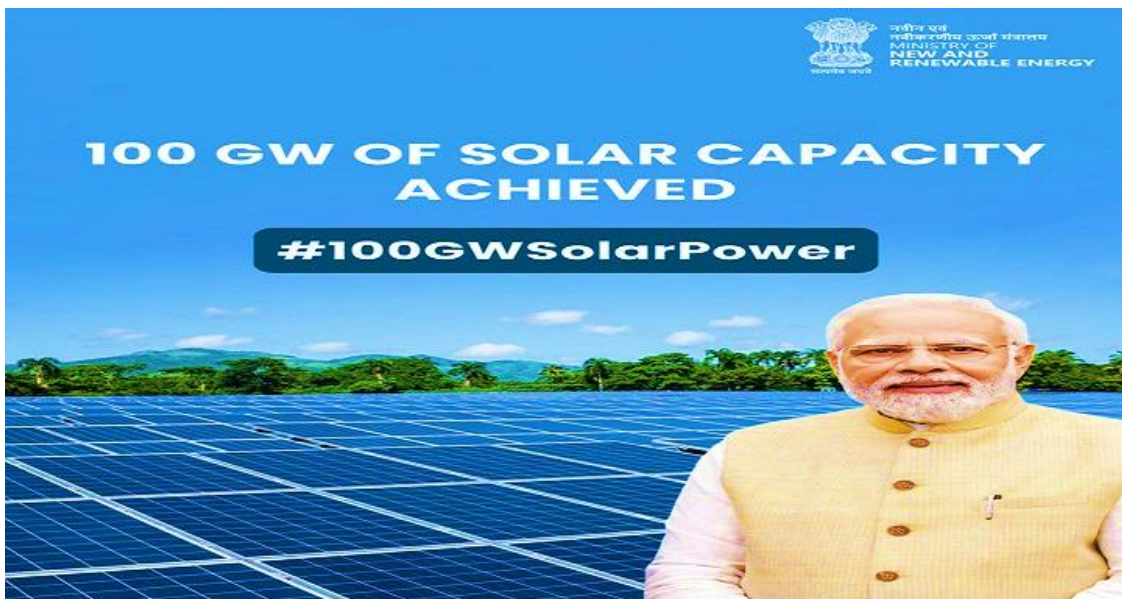


Daily Current Affairs

08 February 2025

100 GW In Solar Power

- India has achieved a historic milestone by **surpassing 100 Giga Watt (GW)** of installed solar power capacity, reinforcing its position as a global leader in renewable energy.
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** said in a statement that this achievement is a testament to the nation's commitment to a cleaner, greener future.



- It marks a significant step toward realizing the **ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity** by 2030, set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi**, said that India's energy journey over the past ten years has been historic and inspiring. He mentioned that initiatives like solar panels, solar parks, and rooftop solar projects have brought about revolutionary changes.



- He added that India is not only becoming self-reliant but is also showing the world a **new path in the field of green energy**. India has also made significant strides in solar manufacturing.
- In 2014, the country had a limited solar module **production capacity of just 2 GW**. Over the past decade, this has surged to 60 GW in 2024, establishing India as a global leader in solar manufacturing.

Argentina Withdraws From World Health Organization

- Argentina announced its decision to **withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO)**, following the United States' similar move under President Donald Trump.



- The decision was made by **Argentina's libertarian President Javier Milei**, who instructed Foreign Minister Gerardo Werthein to initiate the withdrawal.

President Milei cited “deep differences” regarding the WHO’s management of health issues, particularly its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- US is WHO’s largest contributor, **providing \$950 million annually** (15% of the total budget). Argentina’s **contribution of \$8 million** is much smaller and unlikely to affect WHO financially.
- Concerns arise over the possibility of other nations following Argentina’s lead, impacting WHO’s credibility.
- Critics warn that following Trump’s policies blindly may not benefit Argentina.
- Experts argue that aligning too closely with Washington could be risky given Argentina’s economic vulnerabilities. Healthcare experts fear the move could further strain Argentina’s already struggling healthcare system.

Zepto World’s Second Most Downloaded App

- **Zepto, the Indian quick commerce startup, last year** became the world’s second most **downloaded mobile app on mobiles** in the foods and drinks category, according to data Sensor Tower released.



- **McDonald’s, the US fast food chain,** was the most downloaded. Zepto’s rival Blinkit was the tenth most downloaded app in the category. Other Indian companies in the category **were food and grocery delivery companies Zomato** at number five and its competitor Swiggy at number nine.
- The category also included **fast food and fast casual restaurants,** restaurant order and delivery, other food delivery services, dining and listing, reviews and reservations and dining and restaurant apps.

Indian Apps Dominating Global Rankings

- **Retail:** Meesho ranked #3 globally in retail app downloads and Flipkart secured the #6 position.
- **Video Streaming:** JioCinema was #2 after Netflix, thanks to its cricket broadcasting rights.
- **Finance Apps:** PhonePe retained its #1 rank globally in financial services app downloads and Paytm and Bajaj Finserv were also in the top 10.
- **Travel:** Rapido made it to the top 10 in global travel app downloads.
- **Sports:** Dream11 was the world's most downloaded sports app in 2024.
- **Cryptocurrency:** India ranked #8 in global cryptocurrency app sessions, with 26% growth in 2024 and Germany led with a 91% growth rate.

Guneri Village Gujarat First Biodiversity Heritage Site

- The **32.78-hectare area of Guneri village** in Lakhtar tehsil of Kutch district, which is a natural inland mangrove site, has been declared as the first **Biodiversity Heritage Site of Gujarat**.



- The Gujarat government made the announcement after considering a recommendation from the **Gujarat Biodiversity Board**. This will ensure conservation and enrichment of the flora and fauna in the area “through a management plan”.
- The announcement has been done under the provisions **of The Biodiversity Act, 2002**. The Act empowers the state government to notify an area as a BHS after consulting concerned local bodies.

PM Modi To Visit France And The US

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a crucial visit to **France and the United States** from 10 February, focusing on artificial intelligence, defense, trade, and strategic partnerships.
- In Paris, he will co-chair the **AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron**, where discussions will center on ethical AI governance and global regulatory frameworks. Defense cooperation, and economic ties will also be high on the agenda.



- A special visit to Marseille will see the Prime Minister paying tribute to Indian soldiers in **Mazargues War Cemetery**, who fought in World War I and inaugurating a new Indian consulate to deepen diplomatic outreach.



- From France, the Prime Minister will head to **Washington for his first meeting with US** President Donald Trump since his second-term inauguration in January this year.
- Bilateral talks will cover **trade, defense collaboration, and immigration issues**, with India expected to push for a more structured and humane approach to immigration concerns.
- Prime Minister Modi's visit to France and the U.S. reflects India's growing global leadership in **AI, defense, trade, and people-to-people ties**. The **AI Summit in Paris, a landmark event**, will highlight India's commitment to ethical AI, positions India as a key voice in global AI governance, advocating for an inclusive and human-centric approach.



- The opening of a new **consulate in Marseilles** will boost India's diplomatic presence, making it easier to support Indian businesses and the diaspora in southern France.
- In Washington, the focus will be on setting a clear direction for India-U.S. relations in Trump's second term. While strategic ties remain strong, trade differences, market access concerns, and immigration policies require careful negotiation.
- The visit marks a crucial moment for India's **global engagement-strengthening ties with two** of its most important partners while reinforcing its independent foreign policy. **With AI, defense, and economic cooperation at the forefront**, this diplomatic outreach is expected to yield long-term benefits, boosting India's standing as a global leader in emerging technologies and strategic affairs.

National Commission For Safai Karamcharis

- Centre has approved **eight thousand 800 crore rupees** for the Skill India programme for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that demand-driven skill development is the **focus of the government, and emphasis will be placed** on convergence and quality enhancement.



- He said this underscores the **government's commitment to building a skilled, future-ready workforce** by integrating demand-driven, technology-enabled, and industry-aligned training across the country.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0**, the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme are now combined under the composite central sector scheme of the Skill India Programme.
- Mr. Vaishnaw said the government has also approved the extension of the tenure of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years, till 31st March 2028.**
- He said this would help in facilitating the socio-economic upliftment of sanitation workers, improving working conditions in the sanitation sector, and aiming to **achieve zero fatalities while performing hazardous cleaning.**



Skill India Programme (Rs 8,800 Cr)

- 1) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)**
 - demand driven skill development
 - training and certification to youth in industry-relevant skills
 - short term training and upskilling and reskilling
- 2) PM National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)**
 - Financial incentives to industries for engaging apprentices
 - ensuring school to work transition through hands-on experience
 - both in manufacturing and services
 - as per provisions of Apprentices Act, 1961
- 3) Jan Shikshan Sansthan for Skill Development**
 - community-based skill training to marginalized groups
 - focus on women and rural youth
 - fostering self-employment and local entrepreneurship
 - flexible, training at their doorstep

Surajkund International Crafts Fair

- Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today inaugurated the **38th Surajkund International Crafts Fair** in Faridabad.



- The partner states for this year's fair are Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The annual fair is being attended by **nearly 600 participants** from around **42 countries including** Egypt, Ethiopia, Syria, Afghanistan, and Belarus among others.
- It aims to **promote handicrafts, and handlooms** with the aid of craftsmen invited from all over the country. The fair will run till 23rd of this month every day from 10 AM TO 8 PM.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Village Has Been Declared The First Biodiversity Heritage Site Of Gujarat

- A. Guneri
- B. Mandvi
- C. Bhuj
- D. Mundra

ANSWER: A

2. Which App Was Most Downloaded Mobile App In Foods & Drinks Category In 2024

- A. Swiggy
- B. Zomato
- C. Zepto
- D. McDonald's

ANSWER: D

3. Which Country Has Announced To Withdraw From The WHO, Following The United States

- A. Brazil
- B. Argentina
- C. Mexico
- D. Chile

ANSWER: B

4. Surajkund International Crafts Fair Started In

- A. Faridabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Noida
- D. Gandhinagar

ANSWER: A

5. National Commission For Safai Karamcharis Extended Till

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2029

ANSWER: C

6. Which Theme Has Been Chosen For The International Day Of Zero Tolerance For Female Genital Mutilation In 2025

- A. End FGM: Act Now
- B. Unite to Protect Girls
- C. Stepping up the Pace
- D. Breaking the Silence

ANSWER: C

7. Which Indian City Is Home To Fort William, Recently Renamed Vijay Durg

- A. Mumbai
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: D

8. PRASAD Scheme Was Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Tourism
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: B

9. Which Country Has Developed Iskander- M Tactical Ballistic Missile

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. South Korea

ANSWER: A

10. Aim Of 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' Announced In The Union Budget 2025-26

- A. To create new manuscripts for educational purposes
- B. To survey, document, and conserve India's manuscript heritage
- C. To digitalize all ancient Indian texts
- D. To print and distribute manuscripts for public use

ANSWER: B

11. What Is The Main Focus Of The Second Gene Bank's Conservation Efforts

- A. To Preserve Genetic Resources For Food And Nutritional Security
- B. To Protect Endangered Plant Species Only
- C. To Genetically Modify Crops For Commercial Use
- D. To Store Only Medicinal Plant Species

ANSWER: A

12. How Much Union Budget Allocated To Ministry Of Science And Technology

- A. ₹40,000 crore
- B. ₹30,000 crore
- C. ₹15,000 crore
- D. ₹20,000 crore

ANSWER: D

13. Main Goal Of The National Geospatial Mission Announced In Budget 2025-26

- A. To Increase Agricultural Production
- B. To Modernise Land Records And Enhance Urban Planning
- C. To Support Rural Development
- D. To Improve Educational Infrastructure

ANSWER: B

14. Blockchain Based Project Launched By NPCI

- A. Falcon
- B. Grape
- C. Pay See
- D. Orange

ANSWER: A

15. What Is “Stryker”

- A. Invasive plant
- B. Infantry combat vehicle
- C. Indian Naval Ship
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: B

16. What Is India's Current Rank In Global Mobile Manufacturing

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

ANSWER: B

17. Which Company Has Launched The Ai-powered Home Loan Advisor ‘KAI’

- A. L&T
- B. HDFC
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Bajaj Finserv

ANSWER: A

18. What Is The Primary Focus Of The AI Solutions To Be Unveiled At WAVES 2025

- A. Misinformation Detection
- B. Speech Recognition
- C. Automated Translation
- D. Audience Analytics

ANSWER: A

19. Who Became The First Black Woman To Win The Mrs World Title

- A. Angela Lewis
- B. Maria Gonzalez
- C. Tshego Gaelae
- D. Naomi Richards

ANSWER: C

20. Kachin Hills Make A Boundary Between India And Which Of The Following Neighbors

- A. Bhutan
- B. Myanmar
- C. Nepal
- D. China

ANSWER: B